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SUPREME COURT CLEARS DECKS FOR WRESTLING FEDERATION ELECTIONS

The court on Tuesday overturned the stay imposed by Punjab & Haryana High Court on elections of the Wrestling Federation of India

HOW CAN HC STAY ELECTION PROCESS?

Expressing strong reservations about the stay, the bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mithal said, "We fail to understand how the entire process of the election could have been set at naught by HC." It directed returning officer M M Kumar, retired chief justice of J&K High Court, to proceed with the election by publishing a revised election schedule

NEXT HEARING IN HIGH COURT ON NOV 30

- Next hearing on the writ petition filed by the Haryana Wrestling Association in P&H High Court is scheduled for Thursday
- The Supreme Court, in its observations, has also made it clear that the outcome of the election will be subject to orders that may be passed by the High Court on the writ petition | P17

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TIMES WFI ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN RESCHEDULED SO FAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

• NIGHTMARE ENDS FOR TRAPPED LABOURERS • THEY CRAWL OUT ON THEIR OWN WITH A CHUTE • RAT-HOLE MINERS MANUALLY CREATE PASSAGE • HUMAN LABOUR BETTERS MACHINERY • JUBILATION OUTSIDE TUNNEL

HIMALAYAN RELIEF AS ALL 41 RESCUED

1. One of the trapped labourer comes out through the rescue pipe. 2. Tunnelling expert Arnold Dix offers prayers at a makeshift temple outside the tunnel. 3. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Dhami greets a rescued worker. 4. Rescue officials pose for group photos after the evacuation of 41 workers | PTI

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN the end, it was manual effort to dig through the last 10-odd metres after a US-made auger machine broke down, which opened the path to rescue all the 41 workers trapped for over a fortnight in the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi district on Tuesday.

Experts and scientists from 19 leading institutions of the country participated in the rescue effort, where the nature created one hurdle after another and tested their endurance before finally yielding. The first ambulance with the rescued labourers left for a local hospital around 8 pm.

A portion of the under-construction 4.5-km Silkyara-Dandalgaon tunnel in Uttarkashi had collapsed during a landslide in the early hours of November 12, the day of Diwali. As many as 41 workers who were preparing to make an exit were trapped on the other side of the rubble. "Because of Diwali, the rest of the workers had left; else the number of those trapped could have been close to 400," the rescued labourers said.

Instead of being brought out on wheeled stretchers through the 60-metre long steel tube, the labourers chose to crawl out of it, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said. The government announced a financial assistance of ₹1 lakh each to the rescued workers.

As the last ambulance carrying one of the rescued workers left the site, Dhami and Union minister V K Singh went to the temple of a local deity, Baba Baukhnag, to express their gratitude for his blessings. Dhami said the makeshift temple of Baba Baukhnag, located near the mouth of the Silkyara tunnel, will be rebuilt.

Locals had attributed the accident at the tunnel to the deity's anger as the original temple was demolished by the construction agency just a couple of days ahead of Diwali.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the relief workers. "Everyone involved in the mission has created an amazing example of humanity and teamwork," he posted on X. "It is a matter of great satisfaction that these friends of ours will meet their dear ones after a long wait." As for the rescued workers, he said: "I want to say to friends who were trapped in tunnel that your courage and patience is inspiration to everyone."

As for the Congress, its president Mallikarjun Kharge lauded the dedication, skill and perseverance of the rescue team. He urged the government to provide prompt health benefits and an appropriate compensation to the rescued workers. Kharge also demanded that a safety audit be conducted of all under-construction schemes so that a similar situation does not arise in future. P10

RAT-HOLE MINERS THE SAVIOURS

Their work may be deemed illegal, but the skills they developed in the process by working within cramped spaces helped save the 41 trapped labourers as they manually dug 10 m horizontally into the Silkyara tunnel rubble

YOUNGEST LED EXIT PROCESS

The evacuation began with youngest of workers making the exit. They were all fit and crawled out of the passage on their own, said a relieved chief minister of Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami

'Homesick schoolboy put rat poison into water can'

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

A case in which three students were taken ill on Monday after drinking water at Morarji Desai Residential School near KGF has taken a curious turn with police investigation revealing that a homesick Class 9 boy had mixed rat poison with water.

The reason for this was the student thought he could go home if the school declared a few days of holiday in the event of any untoward incident. The three students are now being treated at RL Jalappa Hospital.

KGF Superintendent of Police KM Shantharaju said the three students fell ill after they drank water kept at the administrative block of the school. After this, police registered a case under Section 328 of the IPC and launched an investigation. CONTINUED ON P4

DKS' DA CASE

Yatnal moves HC against cabinet move

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

SENIOR BJP MLA Basangouda R Patil Yatnal on Tuesday filed an intervening application in the High Court of Karnataka over the decision of the Siddaramaiah cabinet to withdraw sanction given by the previous BJP government to the CBI to prosecute DyCM DK Shivakumar for allegedly possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Yatnal filed the application in the view of an appeal by Shivakumar, challenging the rejection of his petition by a single judge questioning the sanction given to the CBI, coming up for hearing before the division bench of Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice Krishna S Dixit on Wednesday. The decision of the cabinet is against the public interest. He filed the application to point out how the entire state machinery is involved in scuttling the investigation, Yatnal stated.

'GRIM SITUATION'

Green cover depleting fast in K'taka, TN Cauvery basin

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

RESEARCHERS and scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have raised an alarm over the "grim situation" in the Cauvery basin in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

According to them, green cover in the basin of both states has decreased drastically and the area under cultivation has increased. Because of this, the demand for water has increased in the two states.

In their report, 'Cauvery River: Land Use Dynamics Biodiversity and Hydrological Status', released on Tuesday, they explained about the decline in forest cover and increase in demand for water between 1965 and 2016. From 2016 till date, there has been a 2% increase in agricultural area and decrease in forest cover every year in both states. This led to the increase in demand for water, Prof TV Ramachandra, co-author of the report, told *TNIE*.

The final report will be released within three months. But preliminary analysis indicated that agricultural activities in the catchment areas of the Cauvery have increased. Moreover, lakes have not been desilted in both states. Because of this, their water-holding capacity has reduced, leading to the grim situation. Had the authorities desilted the lakes on a timely basis, their water-holding capacity would have increased, he said.

The natural vegetation cover reduced from 28194 sqkm to 15345 sqkm, indicating a 45.55% loss of forest cover in the last five decades. Karnataka lost 57% (9664 sqkm) and Tamil Nadu 29% (2905 sqkm). Kerala lost 27% (279 sqkm) of natural vegetation cover during the period. P5

Now, gender-neutral guide for IAS trainees

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

CRICKET may be a gentleman's game, but an agreement will no longer be a gentleman's agreement. From now, it will be known as an 'honourable agreement'.

The Central government has come out with a new handbook called Gender Inclusive Communication, which substitutes any word with 'man' in it to a gender- neutral term. This is being done to shatter stereotypes and create gender-inclusive societal environment, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani said on Tuesday.

This gender-neutral lexicon is being added to the curriculum of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy, where bureaucrats are to be trained to tackle gender biases. The handbook has been compiled by the National Gender and Child Centre, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and UN Women.

"Today, the language of power has been embellished by empathy and equity because of this guide," she said. Over 80 words, including idioms and phrases, adjectives, and titles, have been given a gender-inclusive lexicon. The other changes include businessman as business person, postman as postal worker, common man as common person and actor as performer or artist. When the National Film Awards are announced, will it be for best actress or best artist?

This guide is going to impact not only the lives of citizens and administrators, but also the future, especially a future which is to be looked upon in the prism of gender justice
—Smriti Zubin Irani, Union minister

EXPRESS READ

Koppal man held for keeping Pak flag as WhatsApp status

Koppal: A 30-year-old man from Koppal has been arrested on charges of putting up the Pakistan flag as his WhatsApp sta-tus along with a speech invitation. The arrested, Rajesab Nayak, is a resident of Tavaregera, Kushatagi taluk | P5

Kerala Governor Khan refers 7 pending bills to President

T'Puram: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Tuesday gave his assent to the public health bill but reserved seven other pending bills, including the controversial University Amendment Bill, for presidential assent | P5

Rishab's *Kantara* wins special jury award at IFFI

Panaji: Blockbuster *Kantara* won the Special Jury Award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held at Panaji on Tuesday | P9